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The Non-Subscribing Presbyterian

No. 317. FEBRUARY, 1933.

PEACE. LOVE. HARMONY.

"To dwell together in unity.'—Psalm CXXXIII, I.

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NOTES AND NEWS.

We are in the 33rd year of the Century. For some things 33 is rather a noted number. It marked the year of our Lord's life-time on earth. It marks the highest degree in Masonry, which gives a rank equivalent to that on the parallel ceremonial line of a Bishop in the Church. There are indications that the roots of ritual in Church and Masonry are identical. There are many who consider that Masonry in itself is sufficient for a religion. It is largely a matter of temperament. The fundamental principle of Universal Brotherhood belongs as much to Christianity as to Masonry.

* * *

World Peace is not in these days regarded as something purely sentimental, but as necessary as a dyke in Holland, to keep back the flood of disaster that would overwhelm the world. A striking poster with a virile figure of Christ against a cross of light, has been issued in America, with the following words printed across it:—

They said HE was impractical.
He preached a Gospel which men called too idealistic.
He said: "Love your enemies."
Practical men have scoffed at His teaching.
They have said:
"In a competitive world you must be armed to fight your enemies. That is the safe way, the inexpensive way."
Practical men made and ran the World War.
Do you know how much the World War cost?
Its total cost to all participants was equivalent to $20,000 for every hour since Jesus of Nazareth was born.
The next war will be far more costly. It will probably result in the wreck of civilization.
Practical men have had their way for many generations.
It would be worth while to try HIS way.
It couldn't be more expensive.

World Peaceways, Inc., U.S.A.

* * *

The name of Miskimmin has been known in the ministry in Northern Ireland for generations, because of the pastorates of father and son. Men of the country they were strongly and characteristically Ulstermen, and in the years gone by it was refreshing at Synod meetings to hear the brogue from the Rev. Joseph A. Miskimmin, whose retirement, as will be seen in the report relating to Glenarm has been necessitated, we regret to learn, because of increasing eye-trouble. It is a distressing affliction for which we hope there may be a remedy before it has gone too far. Mr. Miskimmin has the heartfelt sympathy of the N.S.P. Church, and the high esteem expressed by the Templepatrick Presbytery will be endorsed by all who know Mr. Miskimmin.

* * *

"The greatest need of the world to-day is not for new organizations or new institutions, but rather for an awareness of the new relations into which we have come on this planet. . . . What we need is a new spirit, a new consciousness." These are represented as being words of a prominent American thinker of to-day. "The Life that maketh all things new" is continually at work, moulding into fuller expression of itself what is adaptable and shattering that which is outworn and effete, and though the year is still young, there seems to be signs of rapid and far-reaching changes. The Ancient of Days is also the Eternal Youth; bliss is His nature, and glorious liberty the heritage of His sons.

This is the season of the Church's social activities. In all that we are called upon to do, let there be the freshness of new life, living fully and completely in the present moment.

ETERNITY, THE CEASELESS PRESENT.

To what extent do you *live* to-day? Are you allowing yesterday or to-morrow to overshadow to-day? What do you know about to-morrow, what do any of us know about it? "Take no anxious thought for it." When we speak of the Great Architect, we also think of His plan. God has in His plan, a purpose —that same purpose, which the Apostle tells us was fulfilled in all His children. Sparks of the Divine, we who have come forth from the glory of the Father, have to plunge down into this dense sea of physical matter, forgetting the glory of our heritage, to struggle back again to the realization of what we are, and in that struggle to win experience, to become individuals, each with his own power and life and knowledge. That is what has been planned, that is the eternal purpose, to be fulfilled in us as it was fulfilled in Christ. It is a scheme that takes a long time. Who knows how long it takes? But there it is before God, a complete unit—an Eternal Now—"One day is with the Lord, as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day." ULLIN.

THE FIRST CHURCH, BELFAST.

Fifty Years Retrospect.

The recent death of Mr. Bowman Malcolm, C.E., invoked memories of the Church Committee at the period of the Church's Centennial in 1883, of which he was the youngest member. That Committee was outstanding in its personnel, as it was composed of such men as Sir E. J. Harland, Chairman; James Carr, whose wide financial experience helped to build up the Ulster Bank; J. R. Musgrave, Samuel Riddell, leaders in their respective enterprises; John Rogers, F. D. Ward, J. W. Russell, Frederick Little, Wm. Spackman. To the latter the Church is indebted for its standing in rendering sacred music. Early and late he worked in conjunction with Dr. Carroll (Mus. Doc.), then Belfast's leading organist, in getting together a choir which was outstanding in Church music. The Committee of those days in building the Central Hall and Shops laid the foundation of the prosperity of the First Church. At the time of its opening Belfast was poorly provided with medium sized public halls, and our various Churches handicapped in their social reunions or sales of work, welcomed its opening. The York St. Church was one of the first to hold such a sale in 1886. During the building of the Central Hall, 1884-5, the Sunday School was conducted in a building, corner of Royal Avenue and Garfield Street, now the site of a Picture House. The Deacons at the Communion Table in the early eighties were W. J. C. Allen, E. J. Harland, W. Robertson, W. Spackman, John R. Musgrave, Wm. Riddell, F. D. Ward, H. F. Thomas, James Cronne, Marshall Laird, Lennox Drennan, James Graham. On the 18th December, 1883, Pew 59 was set aside as Free Seats for students connected with the Non-Subscribing Association. At that time Choir Rehearsals were held Saturday evenings, previously before service on Sunday mornings. Until recent years when new lighting fixtures were installed, those then in use (one of which is still in the Old Vestry) were the original fixtures, first used for holding candles, then changed to use gas and again converted when electric lighting was decided on. The present individual Communion Service, the gift of the late Bowman Malcolm, C.E., supplanted the old Cups and Patens, some in use for over two centuries. These old Cups and Patens with Flagons are now kept in the custody of the Ulster Bank. Antiquarians consider them very valuable as the Pewter Plates have the silver hall mark. When Charles 2nd was financially embarrassed he secured from various churches their Communion plate promising to replace in due time, but Pewter was given instead, so the story runs, in any case these Patens are more valuable than if they had been silver. Fifty years ago when the First and Second Houses were adjoining, crowded congregations were the rule. The Rev. James Christopher Street in the Second probably attracted more of the young people with what was then thought rather startling discourses, while the Rev. Alexander Gordon with scholarly impressive extemporaneous addresses drew equally large congregations of their elders. At that time Rev. Alex. Gordon had not done much writing of an historic character, but he had published monthly a small magazine, "The Disciple," which attracted favourable notice. The Sunday School Lessons appearing in its pages were greatly appreciated, as they were somewhat out of the usual. Fifty years ago

Mutual Improvement Classes were the means of social intercourse in our various churches. Essays were read by members and discussed, recitations and musical items given, and an occasional evening was devoted to what was known as a Service of Song with perhaps Lime Light views. The First House had an "Institute of Faith and Science," whose meetings attracted many outsiders, particularly when Rev. A. Gordon talked on his European holidays or on Shakespeare and other famous men. Before the Central Hall was built, the principal meetings were held in what was known as the Lombard Hall. In 1907, the present Organ, the gift of the Misses Riddell was installed. The former Organ was on the Gallery, the Choir facing the pulpit. At that time it consisted of Miss Moore and Miss Gordon, Sopranos; Miss Morton, Contralto; T. A. Burrows, Tenor; F. C. Kerr, Bass, with a Mr. Wood as Organist. There seems to have been for many years always a Miss Gordon in the Choir, though not selected, Miss Victoria Gordon being the third in the writer's recollection. To install the new Organ a new Vestry-Organ Chamber and engine room had to be built at rere of Church and the Wm. Bruce windows moved back of the new chamber. The two Memorial Tablets were re-erected close to their old positions, and certain pews removed to make room for the choir. At that time it was discovered that the foundations of the pillars supporting the gallery were defective so solid concrete beds were put in to support each pillar. The congregation are indebted to Mr. Andrew Kirk of Holywood, for the Manse, who on his death in 1875, left a bequest to be applied on the death of his widow, towards providing a Manse. There was some legal action over this. The Third Presbyterian Church, better known as Dr. Lark's, putting in a claim which was not upheld. In the course of half a century naturally there has been many changes in the social activities of the Church. We no longer have a Band of Hope or Dorcas Society in connection with the Sunday School. Now a Dramatic Society helps to entertain young and old, while the Stanhope Street Mission has taken up the work of the Dorcas Society in assisting the poor. In the membership of the congregation itself many changes, old families passing out, leaving no representative—Riddell, Musgrave, Purcell, Ritchie, Allen, Spackman, Oakman—outstanding at one time in the mercantile life of the city, but there is no diminution in membership or in church activities. Still the old First Church is active in the public social services, well represented on many public committees, and bringing up a new generation to serve and take their place in the civic life of the community. H.J.F.O.

EDWIN ARNOLD.

Sir Edwin Arnold wrote the exquisite poem "The Light of Asia," which did more than anything else ever did to bring to the Western world a sympathetic understanding of Buddhism. The following is by his son:

"When he re-visited India and Ceylon he was received with much honour. . . . . But that was long after he had written "The Light of Asia," and most of his other Indian poetical works. To anyone who, like myself, is a convinced student of Theosophy and Oriental Occultism the phenomenon is all the more striking. For his works reveal an expert and deep knowledge of Eastern philosophy which is amazing. I hold the view very strongly myself that the explanation lies in previous Indian incarnations. . . . He never wasted time. He learned the Sanskrit alphabet in his early days by writing it out and hanging it over his dressing table."—Emerson Arnold, M.D., M.R.C.P. (son of Sir Edwin Arnold.)

COLERIDGE IN THE PULPIT.

The Cumberland Lake District is associated with the three poets, Southey, Wordsworth and Coleridge. Over a century ago Coleridge was for a time a Unitarian minister. The following is taken from "John O' London's Weekly":

No one reverenced Coleridge quite so fervently as Hazlitt. As a youth, he first saw him in a Unitarian pulpit in Shrewsbury. His description of the sermon and of his own feelings in his essay on First Acquaintance with Poets is a splendid passage, and its application to European conditions to-day cannot be missed:—

When I got there, the organ was playing the 100th Psalm, and, when it was done, Mr. Coleridge rose and gave out his text, "And he went up into the mountain to pray, HIMSELF, ALONE." As he gave out this text, his voice "rose like a stream of rich distilled perfumes," and when he came to the last two words, which he pronounced loud, deep and distinct, it seemed to me, who was then young, as if the sounds had echoed from the bottom of the human heart, and as if that prayer might have floated in solemn silence through the universe. The idea of St. John

came into mind, "of one crying in the wilderness, who had his loins girt about, and whose food was locusts and wild honey." The preacher then launched into his subject, like an eagle dallying with the wind. The sermon was upon peace and war; upon church and state—not their alliance but their separation —on the spirit of the world and the spirit of Christianity, not as the same, but as opposed to one another. He talked of those who had "inscribed the cross of Christ on banners dripping with human gore." He made a poetical and pastoral excursion—and to show the fatal effects of war, drew a striking contrast between the simple shepherd boy, driving his team afield, or sitting under the hawthorn, piping to his flock, "as though he should never be old," and the same poor country lad, crimped, kidnapped, brought into town, made drunk at an ale-house, turned into a wretched drummer-boy, with his hair sticking on end with powder and pomatum, a long cue at his back and tricked out in the loathsome finery of the profession of blood.

"Such were the notes our once-lov'd poet sung."

And for myself, I could not have been more delighted if I had heard the music of the spheres.

OBITUARIES.

Mr. Bowman Malcolm, M.Inst.C.E.

In the death of Mr. Bowman Malcolm on January 3rd, 1933, the First Presbyterian Church, Belfast, loses one of its oldest, most prominent and faithful members, who was an example to all in the unfailing regularity of his attendance and in his concern for the welfare of the church, which he served as trustee, deacon, member of general committee and, for a period, as chairman of the latter. To these offices he brought the qualities and knowledge gained from a long and trained experience of affairs, and his presence will be deeply missed by the minister and congregation. His active interest extended also to the Belfast Domestic Mission, of whose committee he was a member, to the Riddell Memorial School before its transference under First Church management, and to the Royal Academical Institution, Belfast, where he became deputy-chairman of the Governors. Mr. Malcolm was a son of the Manse, his father having been minister of Carrickfergus, Boston (Lincs.) and Chester. On the death of the father the family returned to Northern Ireland, and as a boy Bowman became an apprentice on the Northern Counties Railway, gaining an experience of the working of various departments. He soon showed his special bent and gift for the mechanical side, and such was his ability, industry and trustworthiness that when but 22 years of age he was appointed to the position of locomotive engineer. The directorate was so impressed with his qualities that later, in 1906, he was given in addition the office of civil engineer to the company, and under his supervision and control various developments and extensions were carried through, notably the construction of the bridge over the Bann at Coleraine, an achievement in which he took just pride. At his retirement some ten years ago, after fifty-two years with the company, much of it onerous and responsible, a presentation was made to him as a token of the high esteem in which he was held by his colleagues in all grades of the service. Meantime wider recognition had come to him, and he was made a member of the Institute of Civil Engineers, member of the Council of the Institute of Mechanical Engineers, and president of the Belfast Association of Engineers and of the Association of Railway and Locomotive Engineers. As a Freemason he had also the honour of being chairman of the Lodge to which he belonged. Throughout his life he remained staunch to the principles of the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church, and was held in the highest regard by his fellow members for his sterling qualities of character, and his friendship was greatly appreciated by the minister of the First Church. He married Miss Gamble, who belonged to a well-known Belfast family, and brought happiness and charm to his home life. To her and his daughters, as to the Misses Malcolm, his sisters, we would extend our heartfelt sympathy in their bereavement.

David Wilson Kelly, Killinchy.

In Mr. D. W. Kelly this congregation has lost a member whose family had long been connected with the Remonstrant Church. His father in his day was an educationist of considerable merit, and, once upon a time, was head-master of Ballee Public Elementary School. The subject of our present notice received his early education in his father's school, and was ultimately issued in a successful career in His Majesty's Customs and Excise. In his chosen profession he maintained a prominent position, serving his country with distinction in Liverpool, Belfast twice, Plymouth, and again in Liverpool. On

retirement from his official position he lived for many years at his own place in Ballydorn, Killinchy. Lately his health was not robust, and last month illness overtook him gradually. He died on January 5th, 1933, in the 75th year of his age. During the past two years Mr. Kelly took exceptional interest in the P.E. School in Ballydorn. It was largely due to his initiative that the plans for reconstructing and enlarging the school was carried to a successful issue. Much sympathy in her loneliness is extended to his widow, who, like her husband, is advanced in years. They raised a large family, four sons and three daughters. A son, Mr. Hugh Kelly, is at present hon. secretary of the Killinchy congregation. The funeral was largely attended on Sunday, January 8th, when the Rev. D. J. Williams officiated in the house and at the graveside in the new Meeting House Green, Killinchy.

Rev. J. Kennedy, Larne.

We regret to know that the death took place at the Manse, Larne, on Saturday, 14th January, of Rev. James Kennedy, senior minister of Larne and Kilwaughter Old Presbyterian congregation. Mr. Kennedy, who was 91 years old, and was a native of County Down, came to Larne in 1878. For forty-seven years he ministered to the congregation and won the esteem of all sections of the community. He is succeeded by the Rev. John Begg, who since 1925 has been "assistant and successor." A fuller obituary will appear next month.

Montreal, Canada.—An informal talk in Channing Hall in the Church of the Messiah, on October 29th at 8 p.m. was Krishnamurti's first engagment in this city. This was followed on the 30th by a talk before the People's Forum at 7-30 p.m. in the Church of the Messiah, on "Life, What is its Meaning? The tour in United States and Canada was principally made by air. Halls were frequently crowded to capacity and many hundreds turned away.

The Treasurer acknowledges with thanks the following donations to the Subsidy Fund: Ballyhemlin Congregation (per F. M. Allen, Esq.,) £1; Rev. J. H. Bibby, Ballee, 10/-; Miss S. McCormick, Killinchy, 12/-.

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VEGETARIAN CHURCH.

In Salford (adjoining Manchester) the Vegetarian Church has recently had its 123rd anniversary. The members of this church are pledged to abstain from eating fish, flesh, fowl, and from alcoholic liquors. The centenary of the "Seven Men of Preston," was last year, marking the foundation of teetotalism; but the Vegetarian Church had the start of them by 23 years. It has provided eminent citizens; the minister in 1832 became M.P., and remained such until his death, a deacon became Mayor, and valuable public service seems to have been rendered by this interesting community. Mr. Hough, a lifelong member of it, lectured in Belfast on November, 13th and 14th.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE.

On Monday, 19th December, the All Soul's branch of the Women's League, as in previous years, entertained a large party of the Mission members to tea in the Mission School Room, Stanhope Street. In spite of the extremely bad weather the party was well attended and was thoroughly enjoyed. We again bring the claims of our Mission before members and friends. Gifts of all kinds, from money to parcels of cast-off clothing, will be most welcome.

The Rosemary Street and Mountpottinger Branches of the Women's League have arranged with Mr. R. T. Welch to give another Lecture on Tuesday, February 14th, at 8 o'clock in the Central Hall, Rosemary Street There will be 80 slides, showing the wild gardens on the cliffs of the West of Ireland and the cultivated gardens of the East, such as Mountstewart. Friends wishing to attend this lecture may obtain tickets (6d. each) from the Repository, Rosemary Street, or members of the League, or pay at door on night of lecture.

"You cannot understand consciousness by looking at it from outside. I was answering a letter yesterday in which there was the question: "Why did God make the Universe?" I suggested that there were many possible reasons, but a kitten cannot understand why a man spends his time reading a book instead of running after a leaf on the ground, because the consciousness of the kitten is not developed enough to read a book."

ANNIE BESANT.

REPORTS.

Generous Gift to Rademon Congregation—The Manse at Rademon stands in six acres of land held under lease granted in 1887 by Arthur Sharman-Crawford, Esq., for a thousand years at the annual rent of £4 10s. 8d. The present landlord is Colonel the Rt. Hon. R. G. Sharman-Crawford, D.L., of Crawfordsburn. Recently the Crawford estate, like other estates, was sold to the tenants; but in the published list of purchasers the name of Rademon congregation did not appear. The omission puzzled the members, who did not then know the generous intention of their thoughtful and sympathetic landlord. The explanation came in a most acceptable form a short time ago, when Col. Crawford invited a deputation to meet him, and instead of asking a high price for the land made it over unconditionally as a free gift. The congregation, deeply grateful for this gesture of kindness and good-will, unanimously passed a very sincere vote of thanks to their benefactor, and, feeling that such unusual generosity should not be allowed to be forgotten, resolved to place a tablet on the wall in the Meeting House so that all entering its doors for worship might read and remember. The kindness comes from a gentleman who is not now and never has been associated with Non-Subscribing Presbyterianism. It is however in keeping with the traditions of the Crawford family. When the tenant-farmers of Ulster had such a slender hold on the land they tilled that a tyrannical landlord might confiscate the result of their toil and set them and their families on the roadside, William Sharman-Crawford became known as the "Father of Tenant-right," on account of the successful fight he made to have their interests recognised and safe-guarded by much-needed legislation. In the course of time he was succeeded by his sons, who followed closely in their father's footsteps. They were the friends of the people, always accessible, and their sympathy was shown not only in words but in generous deeds which are often spoken of by the firesides of the agricultural community. The present representative of the family is the grandson of the "Father of Tenant-right," and has worthily maintained the old friendly relations. It can safely be said that if all landlords had been like the Crawfords no Compulsory Sale and Purchase Act would have been asked or even placed on the Statute Book.

Glenarm—At a meeting of the Presbytery of Templepatrick held in the Vestry of the Old Presbyterian Meeting House, Larne, on Friday, 30th December, the Rev. J. A. Miskimmin, B.A., asked and received permission to resign not only his present charge but the clerkship of the Presbytery and his licenseship of marriages. The Rev. Alfred Turner fitly expressed the feelings of all present and of the Church as a whole when he spoke of Mr. Miskimmin's long years of faithful service and of the way in which he had upheld the dignity and prestige of the ministerial office. The Revs. John M'Cleery, Thomas Munn, Felix Holt, and Messrs. J. Robinson of Glenarm, and J. M'Cleland of Cairncastle, also expressed their regard for Mr. Miskimmin's work and worth, and their regret that increasing eye trouble had compelled his retirement from work at a time when he was still full of vigour. Mr. Miskimmin, who is the son of the late Rev. John Miskimmin of Greyabbey, was educated at Belfast and H.M.C., graduating B.A. at the old R.U.I. He was minister at Raloo from 1891 to 1902, and at Glenarm from 1902. Never one to seek the chief seat in the synagogue, he had in the course of a ministry of forty-two years won the respect of his ministerial colleagues and of the other members of the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland. He was Moderator of the Remonstrant Synod of Ulster in 1905 and 1906, and Moderator 1901-2. The Rev. Thomas Munn of Cairncastle, was nominated Licenser of Marriages, and Rev. Felix Holt of Ballymoney, elected Clerk of Presbytery.

Templepatrick—The annual Xmas party for the children was held here in the Masonic Hall on Tuesday evening, 20th December. As usual the room was gorgeously decorated with holly and various other evergreens, whilst additions of a seasonable character, such as balloons, etc., lent a wealth of colour to a very pleasing picture. At one end of the room stood a huge Xmas tree brilliantly lighted with candles and laden with Xmas gifts. There were more than one hundred persons present, many of them having passed through the Sunday school an indefinite number of years ago. After tea, and when the tables had been cleared away, Santa Claus, in all the glory of his special outfit, arrived and the fun began. Each boy and girl, down to the smallest baby, received a present, and when the tree had been denuded of its gifts, the four little Patterson sisters charmed their audience with some of their lovely songs. At this point a chimney sweep (Miss Turner) forced his way into the room and demanded permission to sweep the chim-

ney notwithstanding the fact that a big fire roared in the grate. Miss Getty (London) took the sweep in hand and finally brought him to reason. They compromised, and as it was inconvenient under the circumstances to have the chimney swept, they agreed to run an "Irish Sweep." It was most successful. Everyone in the room drew a ticket, and everyone won a prize. The prizes were brought from London by Miss Getty and were of excellent value. They made everyone feel happy and how nice it was to be there. Even the sweep was mollified, and went away protesting that he would come back again next year. He thought it great to be mixed up in a sweep where everyone had a horse and where every horse occupied first place. He could only explain it on the ground that it was an Irish sweep! A succession of games followed, and were played as only games can be played by children at Xmas time. All too soon the bus came, and the party reluctantly dispersed. It is not known whether Miss Getty (local) and Mrs. Archie Thompson when all was over sat down and sighed a sigh from the depths, but it is known that ever since they have felt uplifted in spirit because that so many people felt a touch of the Xmas cheer and enjoyed themselves to the top of their bent. Of course there were many others who contributed to the evening's enjoyment. Some gave gifts and others rendered service: all, both those who gave and those who received, united in the experience of a Merry Xmas and in the hope of a happier New Year.

Crumlin—The third annual Christmas Tree-party given by the congregation to the children was held on December 20th. The attendance was as usual, the fun of the usual high order, and the visit of Santa Claus, which we rather begin to expect, also took place as usual. Those who did the work and those whose gifts helped to make such a jolly time possible must without doubt have been better able to enjoy their own Christmas festivities. The children did their share in contributing pennies (to the amount of half-a-crown) in order that a tea-splash might be given to Khasi Unitarian children.

Downpatrick—To the inspiriting strains of Albert Gray's band about 85 cheerful couples had a reunion in the Assembly Hall, which was seasonably garlanded and decorated with berried holly. The catering, in the capable hands of the ladies of the First Presbyterian congregation, with the assistance of the organisers and M.C.'s, Mr. Jack Dickson and Mr. Grahame Chambers, left nothing to be desired. A number of the old dances were revived.—*Down Recorder.*

First Presbyterian Church, Belfast—During the month of January the Rev. R. Nicol Cross, M.A., gave a series of special sermons on "The Bible," and the course extends into the present month. The subjects are: (1) The Bible, its Nature and Contents; (2) Changed Views of Biblical Inspiration; (3) How the Old Testament was made; (4) How the New Testament was made; (5) Why is Verbal Infallibility a Myth; (6) Rejected Books of the Old Testament; (7) Books rejected from the New Testament. A strong appeal is made an historic one, in other ways than that of the 150th year of the present building. "Let all in this 150th Anniversary year resolve to discharge their religious obligations, honour their church privileges, and give their God not an empty pew but an alive person for His worship and use. Then it will indeed be a jubilee year of blessing and thanksgiving."

Moneyrea—The Xmas party was held in the Lyttle Memorial School on Friday, 23rd December, which began with a sumptuous tea for the children of the school and Snnday school and also adults from 6 o'clock till 8 p.m. Following the tea and before the concert, the unveiling ceremony took place. After an opening hymn, a short reading and prayer by the minister, a beautiful portrait of the late Mr. Millen was unveiled by Mrs. Dare Davies who, in her appropriate speech, thanked the manager and others for the honour they had conferred on her in asking her to unveil the portrait, and she also urged the children to strive after noble ideals, as their late principal had shown them by his teaching and life of service. Mr. Hugh Frame, the chairman, referred in touching terms to Mr. Millen's excellent work as the first principal of the school (1908—1932), making the institution what it is to-day, one of the finest of its kind in the country. Mr. W. M'Mordie, J.P., as chairman of the Farmer's Union, spoke of Mr. Millen's devoted service on behalf of the farmers and the neighbourhood. Mr. Herbert Neill thanked the manager and trustees on behalf of Mrs. Millen and family for their token of affection in honouring the memory of Mr. Millen, and he also referred to Mr. Millen's popularity and activities in Masonic circles, and to the local hall as a tangible reminder of the good

things he did for Moneyrea. The ceremony concluded with a vote of thanks to Mrs. Davies, proposed by Mr. William Maxwell, seconded by Mr. R. Dugan. The concert opened with pianoforte duets by the Misses M'Cune, which was followed by songs by the Middle Division, "Dr. Ironheart" and "MacDonald's Farm"; recitations by Betty Davies, "There are fairies at the bottom of our garden" and "Grandpapa's spectacles"; songs by Infant Choir, "Mistress Bond" and "Aiken Drum"; dances by Jean Dunn: songs by Senior Division, "Early one morning," "Billy Boy," "Strawberry Fair," and "Drunken sailor"; recitation by Tom Smyth, song by Middle Division, "Johnny come down to Hilo"; nursery rhyme, "The Tea-party," by Infants; songs by Senior Choir, "Polly Wolly Doodle" and "O soldier, soldier." At this point in the programme, the Chairman introduced the new principal, Mr. Stewart, and Mrs. Stewart, and gave them a hearty welcome into our midst, expressing the hope that they would soon feel much at home and happy in Moneyrea. Prize books were distributed by the Chairman to the Sunday scholars who had made a good attendance during the year. A silver medal, beautifully wrought and suitably inscribed, the gift of Mr. James Frame, was presented to Fanny M'Cullough for five years unbroken attendance. Following this two short humorous sketches were ably performed by the Minstrels, entitled "The Black Schoolmistress" and "The Mummy," which amused both young and old and caused roars of laughter and applause. The performers were—Messrs. James Maxwell, Geo. Doyle, Robert Hill, Samuel Hogg, Samuel Girvan, James M'Briar, Gelston Garrett, Robert Smyth, Russell M'Cartney, Leslie Boyle. After the distribution of fruit among the children, the Minister proposed a vote of thanks, which was passed by acclamation, to Mr. Hugh Frame, the chairman, to the ladies who presided at the tea tables, to the principal and teachers, to the door-keepers, and all who helped to make the social such a success. Mrs. R. Dugan and Miss M'Clune acted as pianists during the evening. The proceedings ended with the National Anthem.

Hollywood—The annual Sunday school soiree was held on January 5th. The children, to the number of about 60, met for tea at 7 o'clock, and at 8 o'clock they were joined by their parents and others assembled to enjoy the entertainment provided by the children, see the successful scholars receive their prizes, and witness the delight of the tiny tots as a real live Santa Claus (Mr. W. Shannon) stripped a wonderful Christmas Tree of its presents for them. In regard to attendance, the school has experienced one of its most successful years. No less than 17 pupils attended punctually every time the school was opened, and received special prizes. Three or four girls have not missed once for three years. Forty-two book prizes for good attendance and good conduct were also awarded. The prizes were graciously given away by Miss Kitty Neill. The evening's programme included two sketches performed by girls, "The Wishing Tree" and "Great Aunt Barbara," a comic sketch played by the boys, called "The Doctor," and two choruses sung by girls and boys, "Fairy Elves" and "Sweet and Low." The girls were trained by Mrs. F. A. Robinson and the boys by Mr. W. J. Harvey. The annual business meeting of the congregation was held on December 18th, under the chairmanship of Mr. W. H. Niall Nelson. The committee's report and the hon. treasurer's statement of accounts were received and adopted and the officers elected for the ensuing year. The accounts showed a credit balance. Mr. James Shannon, jun., was re-elected hon. secretary, Mr. F. A. Robinson, hon. treasurer, and Mr. W. Patterson, hon. auditor. Mr. Robinson was also re-elected as the congregation's representative on the Board of Governors of the Sullivan Schools. The usual votes of thanks were passed.

Belfast Domestic Mission, Stanhope St.—A happy gathering of Mission members took place on Thursday, January 12th, in the Mission Hall when members of the Junior Rosemary Street Dramatic Society presented a fairy play and concerted items. The Rev. R. N. Cross, M.A., took the chair at 8 p.m. Tea was served by the Ladies' Committee at 9 p.m., and a concert was provided by the following artistes: Miss Irene Ford, Miss Nancy Kane, Miss Leah Carson, Mr. Wilfred Cunningham, and Mrs. E. R. Jackson, the accompaniments being in the capable hands of the Mission organist, Miss Florence Newman, A.T.C.L.

Banbridge.—A very successful annual party was held in the School on Friday, 30th December last. It was cold and foggy outside and a poor attendance would not have been unexpected. But it was as large a

gathering as usual, although two or three of our good members were missed who had perforce to stay at home with bad colds. The usual ladies dispensed the tea, and the cakes and buns were voted as being better than ever. A few games : "The Farmer wants . ." of course, and "The Grand Old Duke . ." (didn't we use to call it Sir Roger de Coverley?), and "Music Arms." Then the Sunday School Prize distribution. The minister introducing, was able to report a better attendance than for many years past. As example . . . the last year 21 children absented themselves on eight or less Sundays, but this year (1932) 18 children missed only three or less Sundays. This news was loudly applauded. Master Sam Martin had a full attendance (as did also little Betty Gallagher who started coming to the school in the summer), Peggy Lyons, Elma, Eileen and Gretta Stevenson (what would our Sunday School be without this family?) and Ted McKeown, were away only one Sunday throughout the whole year, and Master George Derby also missed but one Sunday since he joined the Sunday School in June. And only two misses were made by Gretta Derby, Florrie Lyons, Nan Gallagher, Georgie Stevenson, and since June, Robert Derby. Three misses only were made by the following five :—Alec Martin, Willie Lyons, Hughey Stevenson, Willie McNeill, and Cecil Stevenson. Surely these deserve to be named. Seven young people were awarded prizes under the League of Loyalty scheme for good attendance at the Church Services—a full attendance by Sam Martin again, one miss by Elsie Martin, and Georgie, and Gretta Stevenson, and two absent services by Gretta Derby and Ted McKeown. Miss McCaw, a very faithful member of her Church, very graciously handed these prizes to the happy children, for which she received thanks by a noisy acclamation. Then a strange thing happened. The lights suddenly went out! Such a silence for a few moments. Then as suddenly they came on again . . and there, standing in the centre of the large schoolroom, the Father Christmas, and with the traditional sack of good things! Only it was not traditional, it was actually there. It took such a delightful time distributing all these hundred gifts. (Where was Mr. Russell Martin all this time?). Good times must come to an end. So a few more votes of thanks (palms got sore with clapping), for Father Christmas, to the ladies, and helpers all. Then God save the King, the Benediction, and we all went home with our Books, Toys and happy grateful hearts.

THE POSTAL MISSION.

The Ulster Unitarian Christian Association has started a Postal Mission. Many may have noticed the advertisements in the Ulster provincial weekly papers. They have appeared in twelve of these ; and on twelve occasions. As a result requests for literature have been received, to date, from thirty-three applicants ; and in four or five instances correspondence of a very interesting nature has been going on between them and the missioner. Many years ago there was a similar mission, but there are no details to hand about this. The idea of a Postal Mission is to get into touch (by means of advertisement in the first instance), with those who are interested in any way ; groping their way in the quest for a Faith that helps, those genuinely seeking, or even those who wish to be helped over some particular perplexity in religious matters. Of course it is of the nature of propaganda work, but that is not the chief aim of the present missioner, who wishes to be of help to those feeling they need help. He is prepared to devote much time and thought to this work, knowing, especially from recent experience, that these will be necessary. It is fascinating work, and surely it is the Master's work. There is one particularly interesting phase of it. He receives a letter, usually merely a request for the free pamphlets that have appeared in an advertisement. Now, he studies the handwriting, notes the address, the style, and then tries to learn from these something about the applicant! Of course if he should get a reply later, he learns more, and sometimes indeed he discovers a real friend, who helps him too. Would any reader like to be a true benefactor to this cause? Here is a special request. The missioner is freely supplied with all the pamphlets and tracts required, but he could do with some books. From some of the letters received, he can tell that to lend a book or two, would in many instances be more useful than a long letter. So that if any reader could spare a book (or books) from the Lindsey Press, or other source that would give the Free Christian outlook, it would be very acceptable. These gifts could be left at the Depository (35 Rosemary Street, Belfast,) for the Secretary, U.U.C.A., Postal Mission. Copies of The Beliefs of a Unitarian (by Alfred Hall) ; Works of Channing, Martineau, would be useful, as would also of Page Hopps, John Fiske, Dr. Mellone . . . . indeed any work that may help, remembering that all types write to the missioner. Some of the corres-

pondents are really very thoughtful and well read, some are just perplexed and seem to have received no guidance from either Church or books, and some are themselves Unitarian but far from any Unitarian or Non-Subscribing Churches. Will you help?. P.G.

Miss Bruce Enters Her 102nd Year.

January 18th, Miss Bruce, of the Farm, Antrim Rd., Belfast, entered upon her 102nd year—an interesting event upon which she is assured of the warmest congratulations of her fellow-citizens. A little over a year ago Miss Bruce presented the prizes to the pupils of a public elementary school, and since entering the charmed circle of centenarians she has been able to attend the First Presbyterian Church, Rosemary Street, in a very real sense the church of her fathers, and to be present at one of the excellent afternoon concerts held in the Art Gallery, in the Botanic Gardens. Miss Bruce was born at No. 10, Wellington Place, on 18th January, 1832. Her present residence was built in 1834, by her father, the late Rev. William Bruce, who took a keen interest in the planting of the grounds. She is the survivor of four sisters, three of whom passed away within recent years at the ages respectively of 92, 89 and 96. Most centenarians have a sense of humour—Miss Bruce undoubtedly has—and in this connection I may recall the remark of the late Rev. H. M. Butler, of Magilligan, when he was entertained as a centenarian by the Coleraine Presbytery—"I am commencing my second century stronger on my limbs than I commenced my first." *Belfast News-Letter.*

MARRIAGE.

Smith—Brown—At Ballyhemlin, on January 3rd, 1933, David Mann Smith, Marine Engineer, Tayport, Fife, N.B., to Agnes Jane Brown of Ballyhalbert, Co. Down.

DEATH.

Kennedy—January 14, 1933, at Larne Manse, James Kennedy, Senior Minister of the Old Presbyterian Congregation of Larne and Kilwaughter. A Service was held in the Church on Tuesday, 17th January, at 2-30 p.m., and the interment afterwards in the Church grounds.

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